

App. No. 10/605,519
Amendment dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 2, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge for gauging the temperature of a temperature-gauging site in a ~~gauging subject article subjected to temperature gauging~~ susceptor, the temperature gauge comprising:

a thermocouple having a tip end;

a temperature-gauging contact exposed in the tip end of said thermocouple and contacting, exposed as it is, the temperature-gauging site in the gauging subject article; and

a detachable retaining means member that either screws together with or is screwlocked into the susceptor, for clamping said temperature-gauging contact in between said retaining member and the susceptor, thereby mechanically pressing upon said temperature-gauging contact to retain it against the temperature-gauging site, said retaining member in an end face thereof being furnished with a recess into which a communicating through-hole opens, so that said temperature-gauging contact in the thermocouple tip and lead lines accompanying said contact can be housed in the recess, and said recess in depth measuring less than the thermocouple lead lines in diameter.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, female threads being provided in the gauging subject article, wherein said retaining member is a circularly cylindrical form having male threads in its lateral surface for screwing said retaining member together with

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the female threads in the gauging subject article so that one end face of the retaining member presses said temperature-gauging contact onto the gauging subject article.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 3, wherein the other end face of said circularly cylindrical retaining member has a groove for being turned by a turning tool when said retaining member is screwed together with the gauging subject article.

Claim 5 (withdrawn, currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, female screws being provided in a surface of the gauging subject, wherein said retaining member has, along one end thereof, a flange portion provided with threaded holes for screwlocking said retaining member into the female screws in the gauging subject article.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the retaining member has a through-hole penetrating from one end face to the other end face thereof so that lead lines from the thermocouple can be passed into the through-hole.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, further comprising a tubular member, either joined to or furnished integrally with an end face of said retaining member opposite where said temperature-gauging contact is clamped, for accommodating lead lines from said thermocouple.

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Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the thermal expansion coefficient of said retaining member is about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the gauging subject article.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): Semiconductor manufacturing equipment furnished with a ceramic susceptor as recited in claim 1.

Claim 14 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge for gauging the temperature of a temperature-gauging site in a gauging subject article subjected to temperature gauging, the temperature gauge comprising:

a thermocouple having a tip end;

a temperature-gauging contact exposed in the tip end of said thermocouple and contacting, exposed as it is, the temperature-gauging site in the gauging subject article;

a detachable retaining member that either screws together with or is screwlocked into the susceptor, for clamping said temperature-gauging contact in between said retaining member and the susceptor, thereby mechanically pressing upon said temperature-gauging contact to retain it against the temperature-gauging site; and

a sealing member for sealing gastight either an end face of said retaining member opposite where said temperature-gauging contact is clamped, or sealing distal-endwise a tubular member joined to or otherwise furnished integrally with said retaining member.

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Claim 15 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 14, female threads being provided in the gauging subject article, wherein said retaining member is a circularly cylindrical form having male threads in its lateral surface for screwing said retaining member together with the female threads in the gauging subject article so that one end face of the retaining member presses said temperature-gauging contact onto the gauging subject article.

Claim 16 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 15, wherein the other end face of said circularly cylindrical retaining member has a groove for being turned by a turning tool when said retaining member is screwed together with the gauging subject article.

Claim 17 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 14, female screws being provided in a surface of the gauging subject, wherein said retaining member has, along one end thereof, a flange portion provided with threaded holes for screwlocking said retaining member into the female screws in the gauging subject article.

Claim 18 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 14, wherein the retaining member has a through-hole penetrating from one end face to the other end face thereof so that lead lines from the thermocouple can be passed into the through-hole.

Claim 19 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a tubular member, either joined to or furnished integrally with an end face of said retaining member opposite where said temperature-gauging contact is clamped, for accommodating lead lines from said thermocouple.

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Claim 20 (new): A ceramic susceptor including a temperature gauge as set forth in claim 14, wherein the thermal expansion coefficient of said retaining member is about equal to the thermal expansion coefficient of the gauging subject article.

Claim 21 (new): Semiconductor manufacturing equipment furnished with a ceramic susceptor as recited in claim 14.